

HOW THE GOVERNMENT TESTS TAXIMETERS

IN ALMOST every large city in the United States taxicabs are rapidly displacing horse-drawn cabs and carriages as public vehicles for transportation in those horseless vehicles are almost always based on the distance traveled as shown on the registering dials of the taximeters it obviously becomes of the gravest importance that these automatic records shall be honest and accurate in their chronicling. Indeed, in many cities there have been loud protests due to alleged overcharging of taxicab patrons—the alleged overcharging being attributed to the faulty operation of the taximeters. Whether such false accounting was due to a desire to cheat the traveling public or merely to faulty mechanism in the mechanical bookkeeper could seldom be determined, but in either event the outcome was the same—the public got the worst of it.



OPERATING NEW MACHINE FOR TESTING TAXIMETERS



PLACING A SEAL ON A TESTED TAXIMETER



ATTACHING A TAXIMETER TO THE NEW TESTING MACHINE

Various cities have made efforts to devise some means of testing taximeters, but to Uncle Sam belongs the credit of first solving the problem. The system is now in successful operation at the capital of the nation, where, by the way, there are probably more taxicabs in operation than in any other city of the size in the world. The matter of keeping tabs on the taximeters was placed in the hands of Col. W. C. Haskell, the United States superintendent of weights and measures, and he invented the first machine specially designed for testing the accuracy of the "taxi."

The first apparatus was rather cumbersome and the most conspicuous feature was a large wooden wheel which was turned by hand. The principle of operation involved the insertion of a small wire through the shaft of the meter to be tested and turning the same a certain number of times to cover distance, verifying this test over an official mile and fraction thereof. The large machine when fitted with the same size eccentric, sprocket wheel and spiral shaft in use in taxicabs gave a correct test, but it was a time-consuming process, ten revolutions of the large wheel being required to show one-quarter mile of travel.

After much study of the subject Colonel Haskell perfected the small machine which has lately been introduced for this work. With it one revolution of the crank wheel—through the aid of a system of cogwheels—represents a quarter of a mile of travel. With this small machine attached direct to the shaft of the meter to be tested it is possible to test ten meters in the time formerly required for trying out one. Moreover, the system of cogwheels is so adjusted as to give an absolutely accurate test. The government now requires that all taximeters attached to cabs at the seat of government be tested at least twice a year, and when a meter upon test is found to be accurate a round blue seal is affixed to the face of the meter showing that it has been "approved." Incorrect meters are given a yellow seal with the word "Condemned" thereon and must be withdrawn from use under a penalty of \$100 fine.

One of the latest ideas evolved for a safety attachment for automobiles is a "cow catcher." The "cow catcher," or man catcher, is attached to the front of the motor car and, when not in active use saving the life of some one who steps in front of the moving machine, it looks exactly like the pilot of a big locomotive. Used in this way, it was feared that pedestrians might be

hurt, for the car would throw them to one side, hence an attachment was added, operated by a button fixed conveniently on the seat near the driver, which, when pressed in time of danger, drops the cow catcher so that it is similar to the fender of a street car, adapted to catching the unlucky person and carrying him with the machine until rescued by the driver of the automobile. According to the inventors of this contrivance, the "cow catcher" will prevent many serious accidents if placed on the front of the automobiles.

The frequency with which the claim is made that the automobile is largely an extravagance and that the people have grown motor-mad and are annexing themselves to power conveyances with a rapidity and lack of discretion that threatens the stability of the country, is largely borne out by the results of recent investigations. An editorial in a recent issue of the *World's Work*, under the caption, "Burning Both Ends of the Candle," makes the startling statement that in the city of Minneapolis alone 1,500 homes have been mortgaged to enable their owners to purchase automobiles. It is stated that about \$375,000,000 represents what the people of this country will spend for motor cars next year, and the editorial adds that "there are plenty of indications that it is time for the average American to stop and think."

Look out of your office window, no matter what city you are in, and you will see an automobile. Try to cross the street and one of them is more than likely to come along with sounding horn warning the pedestrian to get out of the way. If a man is deaf or a little slow in his footsteps he is too frequently run down and the chauffeur sets up as a defense that the accident was quite unavoidable. Every one knows that more than half the "unavoidable" accidents could be avoided if the cars were run slower and more attention was paid to the rights of others in their use of the public streets. The automobile almost monopolizes the country roads and has become a positive menace. It looms large in the annals of accidents as reported by accident insurance companies. The secretary of state of Indiana has recently found that the automobile is also a menace in a financial way. According to his report covering the months of April and May, he issued 2,564 licenses for automobiles for the two months. Assuming an average of \$1,000 for each car, it would of course appear that \$2,564,000 had been spent for automobiles in Indiana within a period of sixty days. The statement has been made that

in Indianapolis alone more than 1,900 homes have been mortgaged during the past year in order that householders may buy cars.

Purchasers of automobiles have been deceived in the matter of cost and upkeep, the difference in the representations in this respect in comparison with actual experience, makes it unwise to take or own a car even as a gift.

The menace of the automobile now threatens the stability of the home, and the danger is by no means confined to any particular section. Even farmers are buying them. Perhaps you can hear or see one of these "devil wagons" while you read this paragraph about them. It would be worth while to think of them seriously, with the view of reducing the hazard they undoubtedly signify. The bankers of Kansas City and of the southwest who are dependent on the Kansas City banks have agreed to lend no money to anyone who intends to use it with which to buy a motor car. The bankers of Kansas are alive to the menace of the automobile, as well they may be when it is understood that \$32,000,000 were invested in motor cars in that state during the last twelve months.

Physiognomy of the Salesman

The nose of a traveling salesman generally bears the appearance of breadth just above the wings. This is the nose that indicates the ability to acquire property, make good sales, secure returns through bargains and fine talking, and get large orders even when persons have indicated that they did not wish to buy or make a bargain. The thickness of the nose above the wings is the true facial sign of acquisitiveness, and a traveling salesman and a good business man have generally this characteristic strongly developed. We find it large in George Peabody, Andrew Carnegie and the Rothschilds, all of whom have made large fortunes.

The lips of a good salesman are regular and fit appropriately together.

The chin and jaw of a successful salesman are indicated by their squareness and roundness combined. The roundness gives the power of appeal, and the squareness gives the capacity to clinch the bargain.

The voice of a successful salesman is bright, cheery, optimistic. His inflections are hopeful and airy, not heavy and dull. The salesman possesses a silvery toned voice which is so suited to its subject that it knows exactly what to say, and says it without hesitation.

The handwriting of a good salesman is neat, regular, connected, but shows firmness, force in the lines that cross the t's and ambition is manifested in the tails of the g's and in the height of the h's, l's, etc.

The eyes of the honest business man who is engaged as a salesman or a credit man are generally small, piercing and keen in expression.

The ears of a good salesman are broad, and give to the person vitality, strength, good digestive power and comradeship. Such a person generates life readily, and is social, genial and a good conversationalist.—*Phrenological Journal*.

What He Found Out

An Italian journalist, Sig. Tommaso Gioni, has just had some disagreeable experiences. Desirous of knowing something of the lunatic asylums from within, with the object of ameliorating the lot of the insane, he presented himself at the gates of the Cimara asylum and asked for an audience in the presence of the "lunatic"—whose bona fides they evidently suspected—and brutally but unanimously agreed that the only treatment in such a case was

trepanning for a cancer on the brain. By this time Sig. Tommaso Gioni thought the best he could do was to confess. This he did, and found himself at the police station. The magistrate, however, released him, observing that he thought the doctors had administered sufficient punishment.

Modern Strolling Players.
M. Genier, manager of the Theatre Antoine, Paris, France, is said to be nearly completing a motor-caravan

Hints For Hostess



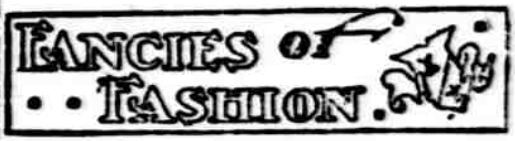
TIMELY SUGGESTIONS
for Those Planning Seasonable Entertainments

A Boating Dinner.
This dinner was given by a coterie of four couples who had passed a great part of the summer together yachting in the nature of a "commemorative." The table was lovely and had for the center a lake made first by the tinsmith, who concocted a circle about three feet in circumference, which was surrounded with a border of ferns, vines and pond lilies. In the water two sail boats and a toy launch floated as natural as life, manned by cute doll sailors. To add to the festive appearance there was a huge Japanese umbrella over the table, from which small lanterns hung from every rib; they were lighted by electric lamps. At each place there was a tiny canoe, with a very small Jap lantern at the bow. The name of the guest was lettered on the side. Wee paddles painted white were stacked bayonet fashion at each place and held a small pair of bon-bons. The name flag of the boats were around the room with the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes. The guests were asked to come in flannels and it was just the jolliest kind of a time. The menu was as nautical as the market could afford, beginning with oysters, fish, lobster salad, etc.

girls who gave it. The result was a fine collection of useful and ornamental pillows or cushions, from those for the couch to dainty confections of dotted swiss and ribbon for the dressing table. There were also cushions filled with pins of all sizes and with needles. There were denim cushions large enough to sit on when placed on the floor, and what girl does not adore sitting on the floor in front of the fire and dream long, happy dreams of the days that are yet to come? A bride-elect who heard of the affair said she thought such a downpour would be very acceptable, so the readers who have been asking for something new in the way of showers may adapt this to their needs.

A Novel Amusement for Children.
At a recent party for youngsters from "nine to eleven" they had a soap bubble contest. First the hostess gave each child a sheet of colored crepe paper and a needle and thread. A grown-up took each pipe and quickly drew a face on the back of the bowl and the children were told to make dolls of them. A couple of prizes were offered and it was surprising what attractive creations were turned out. The boys did just about as well as the girls. The pipe bubbles were taken home as souvenirs. There were favors for the soap bubble contest, too.

MADAME MERRILL



The low lying effect in hats still prevails. Everything tends to smaller coil fures. Shawl collars are still a feature of coats. Egyptian embroideries are in high favor. New handbags are perfectly square. The handed-in effects are even seen in coats. The badger aigrette is in high favor and is beautiful. Beaver hats with enormous rosettes of tulle are worn. Some of the richest opera cloaks have kimono sleeves. Metallic, beaded and Persian effects are popular in lacedoms. Large wings are in demand for tailored and semi-dress hats. The chenille dot is going to have another inning in veillings.

Useful Writing Table



A VERY good scheme for constructing a rough but useful kind of writing table—for the room, perhaps, that is set aside for carpentering and other amusements—is shown in our sketch. It may be quickly arranged and easily taken down again, when not required, and it can be made at a very small cost.

It consists of two strong wooden boxes or packing cases placed on either side of one end of a table. The lids have been removed and curtains hung in their places, fastened on to the upper edges of the boxes with ornamental braid and small brass-headed nails. The two boxes are finished off at the top with four little brass balls, screwed into the corners, and the exterior of the cases can be either painted or stained.

The pigeon-holes in the center consist of nine cigar boxes. One end of each has been removed, and they are fitted together in the manner shown. Small labels can be affixed at the center of the upper edge of each box to indicate its contents.

There is a narrow cloth arranged across the front part of the table, and here a blotting-pad, pens, ink, etc., may find a place. On the top of the pigeonholes a fern in a pot, with perhaps photographs or vases of flowers on either side, would add greatly to the appearance of this rough but convenient piece of furniture.

Lace Watch Fob.
They are very dainty. They are also new and a charming adjunct to the light frock. The girl who is decked with her fingers should be able to make one easily at home.

For this remnants of Irish or Cluny insertion may be utilized.

The strips of insertion are folded over the gold or brass catch, which may be bought for fobs and the end is pointed and finished with a white silk tassel.

The girl with a military friend from whom she may beg souvenirs might substitute for the white tassel one of good strands such as is worn on a sword.

Thin lace fobs are lined with white or colored ribbon.

For Low Cut Frocks.
Jewelry simple enough for a young girl to wear with her Dutch or square necked frocks is in the shape of la Valliere chains of platinum or sterling silver. They have pendants embellished with a response design, a chased pattern or an incrustation of

rhinestones or fresh water pearls. Entire strings of amethyst, topaz, amber or carved sandalwood beads are pretty for a school girl. If the throat is rather long and just a bit too slender she may adopt a neckband of black velvet ribbon with silver, gold, rhinestones or "jeweled" slides and clasps.

Loose Shoes.
Quite as bad as too tight shoes, against which we are always warned, are too loose ones; they cause corns and bunions and often produce flattening of the arches. The woman with the peculiarly shaped foot, who cannot get shoes exactly to fit her except when made to order, should get them a little too long rather than a little too wide; it is the lesser of two evils.

A Veiled Gown.
Rather effective and equally unusual is the gown of two-toned silk veiled with chiffon or other shimmering material. The combination is intensified if the under dress is itself trimmed with hand-work or done in the Persian colors or metallic threads.

AN OLD-TIME CLOWN.

J. B. Agler, (Tony Parker,) Praised Doan's Kidney Pills.
Mr. Agler is one of the best known men in the circus world, having been on the road with a wagon show 53 years. When interviewed at his home in Winfield, Kans., he said: "I contracted kidney trouble in the war, and suffered intensely for twelve years. Backache was so severe I could hardly walk and my rest was broken by distressing urinary trouble. Doan's Kidney Pills cured me and my cure has been permanent for five years. This is remarkable as I am in my 53rd year."
Remember the name—Doan's.
For sale by all dealers. 50 cents a box.
Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

A LITTLE TOO PRIMITIVE

Shower Bath Arrangement Something of a Shock to the Participant.

August Belmont, at a dinner in Saratoga, praised the seaside towns of New England.
"But some of them," he added, "are a little too primitive. I remember a story about the primitive town of Rockford. Rockford had a rough bathing establishment, with a shower bath. You stood in your bathhouse and pulled a rope and a deluge of cool water descended from the ceiling.
"Well, a lady visitor stood one day in her bathhouse, ready for the shower. She pulled the rope and braced herself, but no shower followed. She gave the rope another tug, when the gruff voice of the sailor proprietor of the establishment sounded from aloft.
"Stand a pint more to no-east, mum," it said, "if ye want to get the full force."
"And the horrified lady, looking up, saw the old sailor, frowning, impatiently through a hole in the ceiling and tilting a barrel of sea water for the shower."

SOLAR PLEXUS BLOW.



Cholly Soft—May I have just one aw-good-night kiss?
Miss Wise—Why, certainly, you poor, dear boy! How you must miss your nurse when you are away from home!

WASTED A FORTUNE ON SKIN TROUBLE

"I began to have an itching over my whole body about seven years ago and this settled in my limbs, from the knee to the toes. I went to see a great many physicians, a matter which cost me a fortune, and after I noticed that I did not get any relief that way, I went for three years to the hospital. But they were unable to help me there. I used all the medicines that I could see but became worse and worse. I had an inflammation which made me almost crazy with pain. When I showed my foot to my friends they would get really frightened. I did not know what to do. I was so sick and had become so nervous that I positively lost all hope.
"I had seen the advertisement of the Cuticura Remedies a great many times, but could not make up my mind to buy them, for I had already used so many medicines. Finally I decided to use the Cuticura Remedies and I tell you that I was never so pleased as when I noticed that, after having used two sets of Cuticura Soap, Cuticura Ointment and Cuticura Pills, the entire inflammation had gone. I was completely cured. I should be only too glad if people with similar disease would come to me and find out the truth. I would only recommend them to use Cuticura. Mrs. Bertha Sachs, 1621 Second Ave., New York, N. Y., Aug. 20, 1909."
"Mrs. Bertha Sachs is a sister-in-law and I know well how she suffered and was cured by Cuticura Remedies after many other treatments failed. Morris Sachs, 321 E. 39th St., New York, N. Y., Secretary of Deutsch-Ostrower Unit-Verein, Kampfer Hebrew Benevolent Society, etc."

Managing a Husband.
Men are like children; they want managing, although you must never let them dream that you think so. No child likes to be ordered about, no man will endure coercion. But managing! It is an art so subtle, so elusive, that few women understand even the rudiments of it. Sisters mine, let us reason together, says Woman's Life. In every human being there is a spark of the divine; it is yours to fan that spark into a flame—that is managing a man—it is to get the very best out of him there is to have, and not two women in ten can do it.
Do not think that there is anything unworthy in managing a man—to bring out the best is a high vocation. Only let us see to it that we are worthy of it. There are women who have made angels of men, but at the cost of their own divinity. There is room for more than one unselfish person in a family.

A careless philosopher says a man never knows who his friends are until he hasn't any.

One genius is about all the average family can afford.